

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a movable image bearing body;  
image forming means for forming a developer  
5 image on the image bearing body;  
transferring means for transferring the  
developer image formed on the image bearing body onto  
a moving transferring medium; and  
control means for controlling the image forming  
10 means to form a predetermined image composed of dot  
images with a predetermined density prior to  
formation of a normal image,  
wherein the control means controls the image  
forming means so as to:  
15 form a composite image from the normal image  
and the predetermined image in an area where the  
normal image is to be formed; and  
form the dot images in a dot area having the  
normal image and the predetermined image overlapped  
20 with each other, with a density determined on the  
basis of a relationship between a density of the  
normal image and the predetermined density in the dot  
area.
- 25 2. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein when the density of the normal image  
is equal to or lighter than the predetermined density

in the dot area having the normal image and the predetermined image overlapped with each other, the dot image is formed with the predetermined density, and when the density of the normal image is darker  
5 than the predetermined density in the dot area having the normal image and the predetermined image overlapped with each other, the dot image is formed with the density of the normal image.

10           3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transferring medium is a recording material, and the control means controls the image forming means so as to form the predetermined image within an area corresponding to  
15 the recording material.

          4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transferring medium is a recording material carrying body for carrying and  
20 conveying a recording material, the transferring means serves to transfer the developer image onto the recording material, and the control means controls the image forming means so as to form the predetermined image within an area corresponding to  
25 the recording material.

          5. An image forming apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein the transferring medium is an intermediate transferring body for transferring the developer image temporarily transferred onto the intermediate transferring body onto a recording material, and the control means controls the image forming means so as to form the predetermined image within an area corresponding to the recording material.

10           6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a travel speed of a surface of the image bearing body is different from a travel speed of a surface of the transferring medium.

15           7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when an operation for continuously forming a plurality of normal images is carried out, the control means controls the image forming means so as to continuously carry out the formation of the predetermined image for a period of time ranging from a time point before the formation of a first normal image up to a time point of completion of the formation of a final normal image.

25           8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means controls the image forming means so as to form the predetermined image

in the form of an image obtained by uniformly dispersing dot images each having an area in units of one or a plurality of dots.

5           9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein when the dot image is formed in predetermined positions within a dot area having m dots in a direction intersecting perpendicularly to an image movement direction and n dots in the image  
10 movement direction ( $m, n$ : integer), the control means controls the image forming means so as to:

          set the positions of the dot images within the dot areas in the direction intersecting perpendicularly to the image movement direction to be  
15 identical to one another; and

          successively shift the positions of the dot images within the dot areas in the image movement direction by k dots in the direction intersecting perpendicularly to the image movement direction ( $k$ :  
20 integer).

          10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a greatest common divisor between m and k is 1.

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          11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image

forming means, wherein the developer images formed by the plurality of image forming means are successively transferred onto the transferring medium, and the control means controls the image forming means so as  
5 to form the predetermined image only in the image forming means for forming the developer image to be firstly transferred onto the transferring medium.

12. An image forming apparatus according to  
10 claim 11, wherein the image forming means for forming the predetermined image forms the developer image of a yellow color.

13. An image forming apparatus according to  
15 claim 1 or 2, wherein the predetermined density is lighter than the maximum density with which the image forming means can form the developer image in the dot area.